

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

OMB-01 RSR-01 /096 W

----- 105751

R 310640Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 787

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: REACTION IN PAKISTAN TO INDO-PAK AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: AUGUST 28 AGREEMENT WARMLY WELCOMED IN PAKISTAN. EDITORIAL COMMENT PRAISED ALL THREE PARTIES. BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION FIGURES HAVE ENDORSED AGREEMENT. MINISTER OF STATE AZIZ AHMED TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ABANDONMENT WAR CRIMES TRIALS WAS CRUCIAL FEATURE OF AGREEMENT, AND LAUDED BANGLADESH FOR GOING ALONG. END SUMMARY.

2. AUGUST 28 INDO-PAK AGREEMENT HAS BEEN RECEIVED ENTHUSIASTICALLY IN PAKISTAN. STORY GIVEN TOP BILLING IN ALL INFO MEDIA, DISPLACING REPORTS OF CONTINUING FLOOD DISASTER. EDITORIAL COMMENT IN BOTH PRO-GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION PRESS EXPRESSED PLEASURE OVER AGREEMENT AND HOPE THAT IT WOULD HELP BRING ABOUT DURABLE PEACE IN SUBCONTINENT.

2. LEAD EDITORIAL IN AUGUST 31 GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED  
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PAKISTAN TIMES TERMED AGREEMENT "A GREAT LEAP FORWARD".

NOTING THAT SIGNING OF AGREEMENT "HAS SENT A WAVE OF JOY SURGING THROUGH THE COUNTRY", PAPER URGED THAT IT NOT BE VIEWED AS A VICTORY FOR ONE SIDE OR OTHER BUT AS "A CHILD OF COMPROMISE WITH ALL THREE SIDES MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO EVOLVE AN ACCEPTABLE FORMULA". ALL THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED, HOWEVER, WITHOUT COMPROMISING PAKISTAN'S BASIC PRINCIPLES.

3. EDITORIAL NOTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME CRITICISM GOP DECISION NOT TO HOLD THE 203 SENIOR BENGALIAN CIVIL SERVANTS AS COUNTER TO THE 195 POWS. DECISION WAS CORRECT ONE, PAPER ASSERTED, SINCE THEIR RETENTION WOULD HAVE BEEN BLATANT ACTION OF REPRISAL AND, IN ANY EVENT, THEIR TRIALS WOULD HAVE BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY ANY WAR CRIMES TRIALS IN DACCA.

4. NUMEROUS GOVERNMENT LEADERS AND SUPPORTERS HAVE MADE STATEMENTS LAUDING AGREEMENT AND PRAISING PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO FOR BRINGING IT OFF. THEY WERE JOINED BY NAP OPPOSITION LEADER WALI KHAN, WHO ISSUED STATEMENT IN PESHAWAR AUGUST 30 WELCOMING AGREEMENT AND CONGRATULATING HEADS OF ALL THREE COUNTRIES FOR ACHIEVING IT.

5. IN TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 29, MINISTER OF STATE AND CHIEF PAK NEGOTIATOR AZIZ AHMED STRESSED THAT AGREEMENT MEANT THERE WOULD BE NO WAR CRIMES TRIALS OF PAK POWS. "THIS IS A MOST SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF THE AGREEMENT", HE SAID, "AND IT IS A MATTER OF SPECIAL GRATIFICATION THAT BANGLADESH HAD, IN A SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION, AGREED TO THIS POSITION". HE FINESSED QUESTIONS ON RECOGNITION BANGLADESH AND BANGLADESH ADMISSION TO UN, SAYING THAT THEY WERE POLITICAL PROBLEMS DISTINCT FROM THE HUMANITARIAN ISSUES COVERED BY THE AGREEMENT. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FROM BANGLADESH STIPULATION THAT SPECIFIED MEETINGS BETWEEN BDG AND GOP MUST BE ON BASIS SOVEREIGN EQUALITY.

6. AS REMINDER THAT MILLENNIUM NOT YET AT HAND, SAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISSUE PAKISTAN TIMES THAT CARRIED FOREGOING EDITORIAL PRAISING AGREEMENT ALSO RAN LONG FEATURE ARTICLE BITTERLY DENOUNCING SHEIKH ABDULLAH FOR SELLING OUT TO DOGRA TYRANNY AND INDIAN AGGRESSION IN KASHMIR.  
SOBER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPATRIATION, AGREEMENTS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POW RETURN  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PK, IN, BG  
**To:** STATE  
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